

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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DATE DISTR. 11 Feb 1949

SUBJECT    Thorium Findings in the State of Saxony

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A6a  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO  
25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. On the left bank of the Elbe river, in the so-called Döhlener Beckon, between Freital (F18) and Kreitscha (F27), thorium findings were made by the Russians at an unspecified time in 1947, probably towards the end of that year. The Döhlener Beckon is a known hard coal deposit which has been exploited for a long time. The Russians discovered that the coal itself, as well as the foot wall immediately underneath the coal, contained thorium. The presence of thorium there had not been known before. The thorium stems from the syenite layer underneath the coal and its foot wall; from there it probably penetrated into two layers above by way of emanation, and not in solid form.
2. Since the presence of thorium was discovered in the Döhlener Beckon, the Russians have been burning the coal, collecting the ashes and shipping them to Russia.

This document is hereby regraded to  
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letter of 10 October 1973 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO CHANGE in Class. ☐  
 DECLASSIFIED ☒  
 Class CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 DDA Memo: 4 Apr 77  
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1863  
 Date: 15 MAY 1977 By: [Signature]

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